

The Hawaiian Star.

DAILY AND SEMI-WEEKLY.

Published every afternoon (except Sunday) by the Hawaiian Star Newspaper Association, Limited.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

Local, per annum, \$ 8.00
Foreign, " " " 12.00
Payable in advance.

FRANK L. HOOGE, MANAGER
FRIDAY, MAY 12, 1905

The Vladivostok Cruisers

If the Russian Vladivostok cruisers have been repaired and put to sea again, the cable advices from the Far East will soon begin to tell of depredations upon the Japanese coasts and shipping by the daring cruisers. The work of the Vladivostok cruisers during the early part of the war was of a bold and daring kind and in every way as efficient as a first-class sea power would have made the operations. Undoubtedly the Japanese government has been forwarding supplies and stores of all descriptions to Oyama as rapidly as possible so that the various depots on the mainland of Asia are well stored, but the drain upon them is so extensive that the communication with the home base cannot be interrupted for any length of time.

In spite of the various losses that Japan has sustained in vessels, her naval strength with the exception of battleships is unquestionably increasing. She has been putting torpedo boat destroyers into commission very rapidly and a very heavy first-class cruiser is likely to be put into commission by the fall, so that the naval losses which she suffered before Port Arthur will soon be made up with of course the exception of the battleship Hatause. Unfortunately Japan is not so strong in battleships as the pro-Japanese would desire. Nevertheless the vessels that she has in commission are in fine trim and the morale of her officers and men is of the highest order.

The fleet of Rojstevsky looks formidable enough on paper. Some of the battleships are first-class fighting machines of the latest type, but whether Rojstevsky has any men aboard that can do much fighting is another matter. The probabilities are that the Russians aboard the Baltic fleet will be as poor sea fighters as was the crowd aboard the Russian vessels at Port Arthur and with the Vladivostok fleet. In every conflict with the Japanese the Russians were sorely beaten, the superiority of the Japanese marksmanship being so obvious as to arouse pity for the poor men aboard the Russian ships, who were so completely inferior in that important branch of the naval service. There is no reason for the belief that there has been any target practice given to Rojstevsky's fleet.

Strong Japanese sympathizers have advanced the theory that possibly France might violate her neutrality by lending some gunners to Rojstevsky. It was even hinted that perhaps France might slip a few cruisers into Rojstevsky's fleet and increase the numerical superiority of the Russians.

Cantonese Love Songs

A Mr. Cecil Clementi, M. A., has published a book entitled "Cantonese Love-songs." In this he directs attention to "a side of the Chinese character which tends often to be overlooked." He declares that "the extreme sentimentality of the Cantonese tinges the temperament even of the coldest business man, or the most uncouth coolie."

In his introduction Mr. Clementi says that rightly or wrongly, the Cantonese enjoy a reputation for being the most hard-headed of all Chinese business men; and it may therefore be surprising to have his sentimentality emphasized. Rightly or wrongly, also, the Chinese generally are not credited with any of the refinements of Cupid. Like other Asiatics they are popularly supposed to be devoid of sentiment in all their relations with the female sex, either wholly animal, or wholly callous. Mr. Clementi, however, credits them with better things. He draws a comparison not flattering to Ovid in connection with an apostrophe to a courtesan, and this "from a moral point of view." "Yet, on the whole," he says, "these Cantonese love-songs are quite unlike any love-poetry of the West, both in diction and in thought."

He holds that Cantonese love-songs share the peculiarly Oriental characteristics of Hebrew poetry, to which he traces a resemblance with a difference. The distinction drawn by Mr. Clementi is based upon the metaphors of the Hebrew poet, who contented himself by saying "as the lily among thorns, so is my love among the daughters," while the Chinese poet "proclaims, not comparison, but identity of essence in man and nature. The maiden is not compared to, she actually is, the royal flower in the Cinnamon Garden."

All of which is very interesting, and the book shows that Mr. Clementi is a man of much erudition and considerable originality and power of thought, but it also creates the impression that he did not do his studying of the Chinese character in the rice field, nor among the vegetable peddlers who go from door to door in Honolulu.

A Populistic Victory

Tom Watson, the Populist candidate for the Presidency last fall, claims the Chicago election as a victory for Populism. Mayor Dunne was elected, he avers, because of "the principle which he represented," and that was a Populist principle. Mr. Watson says:

"The National Democratic party has never declared itself in favor of public ownership. The National Republican party has never done so. The People's party is the only National organization which has proclaimed and battled for the principle which was involved in the Chicago election."

"So far back as 1890 the People's party of the State of Georgia, and of other States, grew tired of the deceptive compromise called Public Control; threw it aside as a failure; boldly advanced to the more radical ground of Public Ownership, and formed its line of battle. In spite of abuse, ridicule, and defeat, our party has never faltered in its steady advocacy of the principle which at that time met the aggressive opposition of both the Democratic and Republican parties. In the campaigns made by Mr. Bryan he stood for no such principle as this. In the campaign led by Belmont and Parker and Gorman in 1904 the Democratic party stood for no such principle as this; nor has the Republican party ever dared to proclaim itself in favor of such robust radicalism. Therefore, it is folly to say that the victory won in the Chicago election is a Democratic victory. It is misleading to say that this election illustrates the fact that 'the Democratic party always wins when it is Democratic.'"

"The principle of public ownership has never been a part of the political stock in trade of the Democratic party. Therefore the principle of public ownership of public utilities can not be classed as Democratic, if we use the term in the partisan sense which attaches to it. The principle of public ownership is Populistic, and it is merely rendering to the pioneers of that movement simple justice when we say that the Chicago election, which wiped out party lines and gave to the people and to the principle a magnificent victory, should redound to the credit of those much-abused and misrepresented men who thirteen years ago unfurled that particular flag and began to fight beneath it."

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The Alameda seem to be losing its reputation for clock-like regularity. People who "set their clock by her" this morning are more than an hour out.

The fact that two Russian war vessels were seen along the northern coast of Japan is serious enough. But if they were felt along that or any other coast, it would be a still more serious matter.

That nine foot shark which is said to be disposing itself near the Halfway wharf is probably safe because of its size. Dent H. Robert of the San Francisco Examiner is still in town and since his exploit of a couple of Sundays ago he is known as "Ke o Mano" (The Shark Spearer.)

Mr. Runner, the Examiner correspondent who passed through here on the Korea going to China to put himself in touch with General Dr. Sun Yet Sin, General Ho Sing and other "generals" who are liable at any time to transform China into an armed camp, forgot to mention another Hawaiian Chinese General who has done as much, even if he hadn't talked as much, as any of these other—General Lam Sai.

Perhaps the reason the candidates for county office are not coming forward more boldly, is that they want to create the impression that they think the salaries provided are not large enough.

Judge Bellinger of Portland, who is reported by the cable as dying, was a member of that company of pioneers who came from Illinois across the plains and mountains to Oregon in the forties. In the mountains their oxen were stampeded by the Indians, and almost the entire party had to walk twelve hundred miles. Of the heroism displayed at that time and under those circumstances, some most interesting accounts have been written.

Teddy got back to Washington just about in time to see our secretary.

If the charges against them are true, the Japanese immigration companies have invented a better graft even than the American walking delegates have been able to devise.

It is surely beginning to be time that Rohdstevsky was making trouble for the Japanese transport system or her war vessels.

The local Democracy needs a revival.

Apparently one of the political needs of the Territory is an official time-keeper. In several of the precincts one set of patriots claimed that the

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other set called the Republican meetings to order before the hour set; rushed through its own ticket and adjourned.

The anti-Japanese Consul controversy bids fair to rival the Equitable Assurance Society controversy in bitterness.

It is gratifying to know from the report to the Board of Health, that the uncoffined body which was disinterred the other day, in the course of digging a new grave was reburied.

TOPICS IN BRIEF.

Perhaps the public would be willing to pay these congressmen mileage for traveling the other way.—The Commonwealth.

The peace policy seems to be one form of contract which one great insurance company does not write.—Chicago Evening Post.

American cigarettes are shipped in large lots to the Japanese army. It may not be all up with Russia yet.—Chicago Record-Herald.

"Real peace can be found only in religion," says Colonel Bryan. A dissenting opinion will probably be filed by Mr. Rockefeller.—Washington Post.

A hotel clerk in Arkansas has married an heiress, which fact brings that haughty class down to a level with the British peerage.—Baltimore American.

Senator Tillman, who has been in poor health of late, is reported to be himself again, the we wish he might have done better than that.—Boston Transcript.

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